

On The Trail



Sanders, Clinton Move Past Data Breach Rancor

Hillary Clinton supporters rally outside the debate hall during the Democratic presidential primary debate at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H. (AP Photo/Michael Dwyer) Page 3



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US says bombers didn't intend to fly over China-held island



German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier, center left, talks with his counterpart from China Wang Yi, as they visit a Christmas Market during a bilateral meeting in Berlin, Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015. The United States said its two B-52 bombers had no intention of flying over a Chinese-controlled man-made island in the South China Sea, after Beijing accused Washington of "a serious military provocation."

(AP Photo/Markus Schreiber)

C. BODEEN

Associated Press

BEIJING (AP) — The United States said its two B-52 bombers had no intention of flying over a Chinese-controlled man-made island in the South Chi-

na Sea, after Beijing accused Washington of "a serious military provocation" in the strategic waters with overlapping claims. China's Defense Ministry on Saturday accused the U.S. of deliberately raising ten-

sions in the region, where China has been aggressively asserting its claims to virtually all islands, reefs and their surrounding seas. It reiterated that it would do whatever is necessary to protect China's sover-

eignty. Pentagon spokesman Mark Wright said that the Dec. 10 mission was not a "freedom of navigation" operation and that there was "no intention of flying within 12 nautical miles of any feature," indicating the mission may have strayed off course.

The U.S. uses pre-planned freedom of navigation operations to assert its rights to "innocent passage" in other country's territorial waters.

"The United States routinely conducts B-52 training missions throughout the region, including over the South China Sea," Wright said in an email to The Associated Press. "These missions are designed to maintain readiness and demonstrate our commitment to fly, sail and operate anywhere allowed under international law."

Wright said the U.S. was "looking into the matter." The U.S. takes no official stance on sovereignty claims in the South Chi-

na Sea, through which \$5 trillion in international trade passes each year. However, Washington insists on freedom of navigation and maintains that China's seven newly created islands do not enjoy traditional rights, including a 12-nautical-mile (22-kilometer) territorial limit.

China's Defense Ministry demanded that Washington immediately take measures to prevent such incidents and damage to relations between the two nations' militaries.

"The actions by the U.S. side constitute a serious military provocation and are rendering more complex and even militarizing conditions in the South China Sea," the ministry said in a statement.

The statement said that Chinese military personnel on the island went on high alert during the overflights by the B-52 strategic bombers and that they issued warnings demanding the aircraft leave the area. □



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Sanders and Clinton move past data breach rancor

JULIE PACE

LISA LERER

Associated Press

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (AP) —

Democratic presidential candidates Bernie Sanders and Hillary Clinton moved past the rancor over a breach of her campaign's valuable voter data, shifting Saturday night's debate into a pointed but polite discussion of national security, Americans' heightened terrorism fears and the economy.

Clinton, the Democratic

breach, the Democratic National Committee temporarily cut off Sanders' team's access to its own data, a move the Vermont senator said Saturday was an "egregious act."

Still, Sanders said his staff had acted improperly.

"This is not the type of campaign that we run," he said. Sanders' campaign fired a worker involved in the breach but also used the controversy to raise money, sending an email to supporters that said the national party had placed

Sanders by 20 percentage points or more in most national polls, but state polls show Sanders more competitive in Iowa and leading in New Hampshire, the states holding the first two nominating contests in 2016. Clinton and Sanders were joined onstage by former Maryland Gov. Martin O'Malley, who has struggled to be a factor in the race. O'Malley was aggressive in seeking to play a role, repeatedly talking over moderators and accusing his rivals of having outdated views on foreign policy. □



Martin O'Malley supporters hold signs outside the debate hall during the Democratic presidential primary debate at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H.

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)



Bernie Sanders supporters rally alongside Hillary Clinton supporters outside the debate hall during the Democratic presidential primary debate at Saint Anselm College in Manchester, N.H.

(AP Photo/Michael Dwyer)

front-runner, kept much of her focus on the general election, sharply criticizing Donald Trump's plan to ban Muslims from entering the United States. She called the leader of the Republican race the Islamic State's "best recruiter."

"Mr. Trump has a great capacity to use bluster and bigotry to inflame people," said Clinton, the former secretary of state. Clinton and Sanders, her closest challenger, entered the debate in the midst of one of their fiercest fights — about the campaign itself rather than a national or international issue. Clinton's campaign accused Sanders' team of stealing information used to target voters and anticipate what issues might motivate them. In response to the

"its thumb on the scales in support of Hillary Clinton's campaign." His campaign said after the debate it had suspended two more aides.

Clinton quickly accepted his apology Saturday night, saying, "We should move on, because I don't think the American people are all that interested in this."

The debate, the third for Democrats, was expected to have low viewership given that it was scheduled on the last weekend before Christmas, when many Americans have turned their attention to the holidays. It came as Clinton had solidified her standing atop the field, shaking off a rocky start and the controversy about her use of private email at the State Department. Clinton leads



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Laid-off woman's Facebook plea brings help for Christmas

BLAKE NICHOLSON
Associated Press

BISMARCK, N.D. (AP) — When Elizabeth Garcia looked at the bare area under her Christmas tree and considered the bills that had been mounting since her last job layoff, she knew she had to do something to give her family a merry holiday. She turned to social media. Garcia, 33, one of thousands of North Dakota residents to lose their jobs during oil's current downturn, went public with her plight on Facebook. She offered

to sell a camper she had bought earlier this year for \$500 so that she could give a real Christmas to her son, 8, and daughter, 5. Although she got no offers for the camper, the replies brought her to tears. A store offered to let her pick out presents for her kids. People donated toys, store gift cards and grocery store cards. "If you saw my Christmas tree right now, it is absolutely ridiculous how many presents are under there," she said. "If I wouldn't have put the

(Facebook) post up, I probably wouldn't have been able to get my kids any presents at all." Garcia, a single divorced mother who moved to Watford City in the western North Dakota oil patch from Colorado in 2012 to start a new life, was laid off last summer from her job with a company building a natural gas plant. She later was laid off from welding and carpentry jobs. The North Dakota Petroleum Council estimates as many as 20,000 workers



have lost their jobs in the current oil downturn.

This photo shows Garcia posing with her children Cristian, rear, and Nayeli, at their home in Watford City, N.D. The oil industry slump is leading to layoffs in North Dakota's oil patch, but Garcia, who was laid off before Christmas, has found some surprising support. (AP Photo/Elizabeth Garcia via AP)

"There's a new norm," Louis "Mac" McLeod, executive director of the Minot Area Homeless Coalition, said of people struggling and agencies like his working overtime to help them. "And we don't like the new norm. But it is what it is." Garcia was hired by a local laundry, and she's also selling homemade food to get by until she can find another oil field job. She hopes to make North Dakota her permanent home; she likes the schools and her kids are happy, she said. And that was before the outpouring of support from her Facebook post. She has lived in many states, she said, and "I don't think this would have happened anywhere else."

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Police shooting cases hang over Cincinnati and Cleveland



Demonstrators block Public Square in Cleveland, during a protest over the police shooting of 12-year-old Tamir Rice. Volatile, racially sensitive questions of whether to charge police officers for fatal on-duty shootings, and whether jurors will convict an officer in such a case, hang over two of Ohio's largest cities.
(AP Photo/Tony Dejak)

DAN SEWELL

Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Volatile, racially sensitive questions of whether to charge police officers for fatal on-duty shootings, and whether jurors will convict an officer in such a case, hang over two of Ohio's largest cities.

A Hamilton County judge is expected in February to set a trial date for a former University of Cincinnati police officer charged with murder in the fatal shooting of an unarmed black motorist after a traffic stop. Meanwhile, a Cuyahoga County grand jury has been hearing testimony about potential charges in the Cleveland police killing of a 12-year-old black boy who had a pellet gun.

The cases come during heightened scrutiny across the United States of police treatment of blacks, after a string of police-inflicted deaths from Ferguson, Missouri, to Chicago sparked sometimes-violent protests over the past 16 months. Cleveland police arrested more than 70 people in May during protests after a judge found Patrolman Michael Brelo not guilty of voluntary manslaughter in the November 2012 deaths of two unarmed motorists in a 137-shot barrage of police gunfire after a high-speed chase.

They also come after a year in which the number of U.S. police officers charged in on-duty shootings was triple the average, according to Philip Stinson, a Bowl-

ing Green State University criminologist who tracks charges against police. A Chicago police officer charged last month with murder in a fatal shooting was at least the 15th such case this year, compared with an average of fewer than five a year, Stinson said recently.

Michael Benza, a criminal law professor at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland, said that accompanying the increased attention to such cases is an erosion of public faith in police credibility. "That's the real problem," he said.

The widening availability of video — from police dashboard cameras, police body cameras and citizens' smartphones — has played a role in the increased number of charges. Stinson reported that 10 of this year's 15 cases involved video. But even with video, officers' actions can be subject to interpretation.

"The biggest argument that law enforcement uses, and which the law recognizes, is that officers have to make these decisions instantaneously in many of these cases," Benza said. "Usually it's in this high-tension, high-adrenalin moment ... 'Do I shoot or do I not?' It's easy afterward to sit down and calmly look at the video and come to the decision. The officer doesn't have that luxury."

In the Cleveland case of the November 2014 shooting of Tamir Rice, experts hired by prosecutors con-

cluded that the use of deadly force was justified because the officers didn't know the boy was holding a replica gun that shot plastic pellets.

In the Cincinnati case, in which former UC officer Ray Tensing was charged after the July 19 shooting of Samuel DuBose, 43, after stopping him for a missing front license plate, his attorney has contended that Tensing feared he would be dragged under the car when DuBose tried to drive away.

In both cases, the county prosecutors have been criticized, for very different reasons.

Attorneys for the Cleveland boy's family wrote a Dec. 14 letter to the U.S. Justice Department complaining that Cuyahoga County

Prosecutor Tim McGinty "has abdicated his responsibility to conduct a fair and impartial investigation and has severely compromised the grand jury process."

In the Tensing case, Hamilton County Prosecutor Joe Deters' acerbic commentary about the officer as he announced his indictment drew criticism and led to a pending request by defense attorney Stewart Mathews to move the trial to another county. Deters called Tensing's decision to shoot "asinine" and "senseless" after a "chicken-crap" traffic stop.

Prosecutions that lead to police convictions have continued to be rare. Stinson found that of 47 police officers charged in 2005-2014, less than a fourth were convicted. □

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Nevada lawmakers OK \$335M deal to lure electric carmaker

MICHELLE RINDELS
Associated Press

CARSON CITY, Nevada

(AP) — Nevada lawmakers approved a \$335 million incentive package to attract upstart electric carmaker Faraday Future's billion-dollar factory to a hard-hit Las Vegas suburb, even though the company has yet to unveil a concept car or bring a product to market.

The state Assembly voted overwhelmingly in favor of the deal Saturday, after a four-day special session in Carson City. Lawmakers learned last week that Chinese billionaire Jia Yueting was backing the secretive California-based company, which employs some

former Tesla Motors executives, and that Faraday plans to bring 4,500 direct jobs to Nevada.

"This is a watershed moment," said Democratic state Sen. Pat Spearman, whose district encompasses part of recession-battered North Las Vegas. "I will be happy to go back to my constituents and say the darkness that has overshadowed us has lifted." The Senate had already approved the four bills implementing the agreement.

Republican Gov. Brian Sandoval, who's championed the deal as a boon to Nevada, planned to sign them.

The deal comes a little



Gov. Brian Sandoval joins state lawmakers and officials from electric car maker Faraday Future to approve a \$335-million incentive package for the company in a signing ceremony in Carson City, Nev., on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015. The deal required a four-day special session of the legislature.

(AP Photo/Michelle Rindels)

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more than a year after state lawmakers approved a \$1.3 billion incentive package to land a massive Tesla battery factory outside of Reno. Nevada officials said the deals are reshaping and diversifying the state's economy after decades of tying its fate to casinos.

"This is a huge win for Southern Nevada," said the Las Vegas Global Economic Alliance, a key proponent of the deal. "Nevada is quickly becoming the launching pad for ambitious companies that will play a critical role in reshaping the way we think about transportation." Nevada triumphed over California, Louisiana and Georgia in the bid to land the factory. The state will offer \$215 million in tax credits and abatements, and publicly finance \$120 million in infrastructure improvements at an under-developed industrial park in the City of North Las Vegas. □



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Jackpot-fixing investigation expands to more state lotteries



Eddie Tipton looks over at his lawyers before the start of his trial in Des Moines, Iowa. The former security director of the Multi-State Lottery Association, accused of tampering with lottery drawings to rig jackpots in four states, was convicted of fraud in the attempt to claim a \$16.5 million jackpot in Iowa.

(Brian Powers/The Des Moines Register)

RYAN J. FOLEY

DAVID PITT

Associated Press

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) —

The allegations read like a movie plot: a lottery industry insider installs undetectable software giving him advance knowledge of winning numbers, then enlists accomplices to play those numbers and collect the jackpots. And they secretly enrich themselves for years — until a misstep exposes them.

Eddie Tipton, former security director of the Multi-State Lottery Association, has been convicted of fraud for fixing one jackpot in Des Moines, but prosecutors say his high-tech scheme extended far beyond Iowa. He's accused of tampering with lottery drawings in four states over six years, and investigators are expanding their inquiry nationwide.

Investigators have asked states to review jackpots produced by the number-generators Tipton had access to, and whose winning numbers were specifically requested by the ticket buyer. They hope to talk with anyone aware of such payouts being collected

by someone other than the person who ends up with the money, said Rob Sand, a state prosecutor in Des Moines who is leading the probe.

The inquiry is sending a chill through state governments that depend on public confidence in contests that generate \$20 billion annually in lottery revenue. "It would be pretty naive to believe they are the only four" jackpots involved, said now-retired Iowa deputy attorney general Thomas H. Miller, who oversaw the investigation for 2 1/2 years. "If you find one cockroach, you have to assume there are 100 more you haven't found."

Thirty-seven states and U.S. territories use random-number generators from the Iowa-based association, which administers games and distributes prizes for the lottery consortium. So far, Colorado, Wisconsin, and Oklahoma have confirmed paying jackpots valued at a total of \$8 million allegedly linked to Tipton and associates.

Tipton, 52, was sentenced to 10 years but is free pending appeal after being convicted at trial of

trying to claim a \$16.5 million jackpot in Iowa. He's also charged with criminal conduct and money laundering involving the other three state lotteries. His brother, Tommy Tipton, and his best friend, Robert Rhodes, are under investigation as possible accomplices.

Rhodes' attorney did not respond to messages. Tommy Tipton, who resigned his elected judicial position in Texas last month, did not return calls. Eddie Tipton's attorney, Dean Stowers, says his client is innocent.

"There's just absolutely no evidence whatsoever that he did anything to alter the proper operations of the computers that were used to pick those numbers, absolutely no evidence. It's just all speculation," Stow-

ers said.

Prosecutors say Tipton installed software known as a root kit that enabled him to manipulate numbers without a trace. What tripped him up, investigators say, was his decision to buy the winning ticket himself at a service station near the headquarters of the association, whose workers are prohibited from trying their luck.

Iowa got suspicious in 2012 after a New York lawyer representing a newly created trust tried to claim the \$16.5 million Hot Lotto jackpot on behalf of a Belize-registered corporation, turning in the ticket hours before a one-year deadline. The trust eventually withdrew the claim rather than identify the ticket purchaser.

Investigators initially suspected the buyer was merely trying to hide the winnings from a former spouse or creditor. Still, who would walk away from \$16.5 million?

The case took an even more dramatic twist after authorities sought the public's help, releasing surveillance video showing a stocky, hooded man buying the winning ticket and hot dogs at a service station in December 2010. Lottery colleagues were stunned, stepping forward to say the man looked and sounded like Tipton.

Eddie Tipton had worked at the association since 2003, after a career in information technology, including at a Rhodes-owned firm in Houston called Systems Evolution. □

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Exit polls: Strong showing in Spain vote by upstart parties



Pablo Iglesias, leader of Podemos party, casts his vote for the national elections in Madrid, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015. Spaniards are voting in an historic national election Sunday with the country's traditional two parties and widely anticipated strong showings for two new parties. (AP Photo/Emilio Morenatti)

HAROLD HECKLE
ALAN CLENDENNING
Associated Press

MADRID (AP) — A strong showing by a pair of upstart parties in Spain's general election on Sunday is threatening to upend the country's traditional two-party system, with exit polls projecting that the ruling Popular Party won the most votes but fell far short of a parliamentary majority and risks being booted from power. Days or weeks of negotiations may be needed

to determine who will govern Spain, with the new far left Podemos and business-friendly Ciudadanos parties producing shockwaves. In past elections, Popular Party and the main opposition Socialists were the established powerhouses and only needed support from tiny Spanish parties to get a majority in parliament when they didn't win one from voters. An exit poll for the state-owned RTVE channel gave the Popular Party 26.8 per-

cent of the vote in Sunday's election. The Socialist Party, with 20.5 percent, was running neck-and-neck for second place with Podemos, with 21.7 percent, the poll said. It put support for the new business-friendly Ciudadanos party far behind the others, at 15.2 percent. Jorge Clemente, spokesman for pollster TNS Demoscopia, says its figures are based on 180,000 face-to-face interviews. Another exit poll conducted for Antena 3 television

channel gave the Popular Party 28.1 percent, Podemos 21.1 percent, the Socialists 20.4 percent and 14.9 percent for Ciudadanos. If the projections are confirmed, analysts said it could make it extremely difficult for the Popular Party to form a government because it wouldn't get a majority of seats in parliament by allying with Ciudadanos, its most natural partner. The country's lower house of parliament has 350 seats and with 28 percent of the vote counted Sunday night, the Popular Party was on track to get 124 seats. The Socialists were headed toward winning 94 seats while the number for Podemos and allies was predicted at 61, with 31 for Ciudadanos. But the center-left Socialists could team up with Podemos and Ciudadanos in a three-way "coalition of losers" similar to an outcome that happened in Portugal last month. "If the current poll predictions are confirmed, then it looks like a Socialist government," said Federico Santi, a London-based analyst with the Eurasia Group political risk consulting group. "Reaching a deal between the Socialists, Ciudadanos and Podemos is not going to be straightforward ... but

if the alternative is leaving the country without a government, the pressure will be on the parties." The Socialists could get more seats in Parliament than Podemos with fewer votes because Spanish election law gives extra weight to rural voters. Podemos and Ciudadanos both gained strength by portraying the Popular Party and the Socialists as out-of-touch behemoths run by politicians who care more about maintaining their own power than citizens' needs. Miguel Redondo, a 19-year-old Madrid university student, voted for Podemos because "it's the party that best understands the difficulties that young people are going through" in a nation where joblessness for people under 25 is more than double the country's overall 21 percent unemployment rate. Spain's 36.5 million registered voters were electing representatives to the lower house of parliament and to the Senate, which has less legislative power. Voting was brisk with lines outside some polling station and voter participation of 58.4 percent by 6 p.m. (1700 GMT, 12 p.m. EST), up slightly compared to the 2011 election. □

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Fake bomb prompts emergency landing of Air France flight

**TOM ODULA
LORI HINNANT**
Associated Press

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — A fake explosive rigged with cardboard, sheets of paper and a household timer forced an Air France flight into an emergency landing in Kenya on Sunday, sending hundreds of passengers down emergency slides in what the airline's CEO said was the fourth bomb hoax against the airline in recent weeks.

The homemade apparatus was discovered around midnight hidden in a lavatory cabinet behind a mirror where it was apparently placed during the approximately 11-hour flight to Paris from the island of Mauritius, said the airline's CEO, Frederic Gagey. He said the



A Kenyan Police officer keeps vigil as passengers go through security screening at Moi International Airport Mombasa Kenya, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015 after their earlier flight was involved in a bomb scare and they were evacuated to different hotels in Mombasa.

(AP Photo)

airline has had heightened security checks around the world since the Nov. 13 attacks that left 130 people dead in Paris.

"It was an ensemble of cardboard, papers and something that resembled a kitchen timer. Nothing that presented a danger

to the plane, to the passengers or to the crew," a visibly irritated Gagey told a news conference in Paris. He said it contained no explosives. With France in a state of emergency since the Paris attacks and the United States on high alert since the attack in San Bernardino, California, that left 14 dead, hoaxes present a particular conundrum for security officials, who must choose between feeding mass fear and keeping the public in potential danger. On Tuesday, the two biggest school systems in the U.S. — New York City and Los Angeles — received threats of a large-scale jihadi attack. LA reacted by shutting down the entire district, while New York dismissed the warning as

an amateurish hoax and held classes. Air France has been the target of three prior hoaxes, all in the United States, Gagey said. The fourth came on board the flight from Mauritius, a popular winter vacation spot for French tourists.

The Boeing 777 was heading to Charles de Gaulle airport in Paris when its pilots requested an emergency landing early Sunday at Kenya's coastal city of Mombasa.

Gagey congratulated the crew for their cool-headed reaction to divert the plane to Moi International Airport. A safety check was carried out in the bathroom before the flight, he said, indicating the device was placed in the cabinet while the plane was in the air. □



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Turkey will pull more troops from Iraq after US request

ISTANBUL (AP) — Turkey says it will withdraw more troops from northern Iraq and acknowledged there had been a miscommunication with the Iraqi government over the issue. The Turkish Foreign Ministry announced late Saturday the government "in recognition of the Iraqi concerns and in accordance with the requirements of the fight against Daesh

(Islamic State), is continuing to move military forces from Nineveh province." The move followed an appeal from President Barack Obama, who called Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday and urged him "to take additional steps to de-escalate tensions with Iraq." The Ankara-Baghdad spat has been an unwelcome setback to U.S. efforts

to accelerate the fight against Islamic State extremists. Turkey began withdrawing troops stationed near the IS-controlled Iraqi city of Mosul earlier this week. But Baghdad, which considers the deployment of Turkish troops an illegal incursion, demanded the immediate withdrawal of Turkish troops from Iraqi territory at a U.N. Security Council

meeting. The dispute flared up earlier this month after Turkey deployed reinforcements to a camp in Iraq's Bashiqa region where Sunni and Kurdish troops are being trained to fight IS militants. Turkey has stationed troops there since last year but had recently sent more with the stated aim of protecting its forces from IS attacks. □

UN announces end of Yemen peace talks amid fighting



The United Nations special envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, gestures during a press conference at the end of the Swiss Yemen peace talks in Bern, Switzerland, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015. (Marcel Bier/Keystone via AP)

LUCA MUZI BERN, Switzerland (AP) — Peace talks between Yemen's warring sides came to an end on Sunday as fierce fighting wracked the country and the United Nations blamed "numer-

ous violations" of a cease-fire agreement. Speaking at a news conference in Bern, U.N. special envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said the talks between the internationally recognized government

and Shiite rebels were hindered by violations of the truce that went into effect last Tuesday. "There was noticeable progress but not enough to reunite Yemen ... unfortunately there were nu-

merous violations (of the cease-fire)," he told reporters, adding that the two sides had agreed on a framework for further negotiations on Jan. 14 at a venue to be determined. "It's very clear that unfortunately, the cease-fire that was agreed upon as I said earlier wasn't respected, and in some cases was violated from the first hours, even of these talks," he said. Both sides broke the cease-fire during the peace negotiations that began Tuesday in the Swiss village of Macolin. The Yemen conflict pits the internationally recognized government backed by a Saudi-led, U.S.-supported coalition against the rebels, known as Houthis, who are allied with a former president and backed by Iran. Local affiliates of al-Qaida and the Islamic State group have exploited the chaos to grab land and exercise influence. □

Indonesia says 7 arrested, foiling holiday attack plans

MOJOKERTO, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia's anti-terror squad has arrested seven men suspected of planning Christmas or New Year's attacks in the world's most populous Muslim nation, police said Sunday. Abdul Karim, known by his alias Abu Jundi, was captured Saturday in Sukoharjo, a town in Central Java province, a day after three other suspected militants were nabbed in two separate locations in West Java province, said local police chief Lt. Col. Andi Rifai.

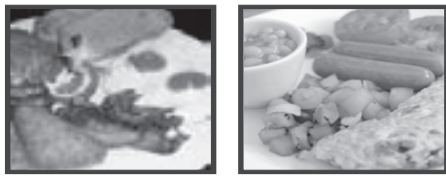
He said Jundi is believed to have expertise in shooting and bomb-making because of his membership in Jemaah Islamiyah, an al-Qaida-linked Southeast Asian group blamed for the deadly 2002 nightclub bombings on the Indonesian resort island of Bali. Their interrogation led police to arrest three other group members in Mojokerto town in East Java on Sunday, said Lt. Col. Budhi Herdi Susianto, another police chief in Mojokerto. Police seized bomb-mak-

ing devices from the men's homes, but no explosive materials were found. Susianto said the men were using emails and phone conversations to plan attacks during the upcoming holiday celebrations. "A police investigation managed to reveal their plan to launch a terror attack during Christmas or New Year's Eve celebrations," Susianto said, without elaborating. Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, has seen a spate of deadly

attacks by the Jemaah Islamiyah network, including the 2002 Bali bombings that killed 202 people, mostly foreign tourists. Strikes in recent years have been smaller and less deadly and have targeted government authorities, mainly police and anti-terrorism forces. The government will deploy more than 150,000 security personnel to safeguard churches and public places around the country during Christmas and New Year's, National Police Chief Gen. Badrodin Haiti said. □



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Puerto Rico power utility gets debt deadline extension



People gather in front of the Puerto Rico's Capitol building to protest against Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla in San Juan. Puerto Rico's electric utility says it's been given a brief reprieve for approval of a debt restructuring deal.

(AP Photo/Ricardo Arduengo)

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Puerto Rico's electric utility says it has been given a brief reprieve to pursue an agreement with bond insurers on a debt restructuring deal that it reached last month with its bondholders and bank lenders. The Puerto Rico Electric

Power Authority said creditors agreed to extend Friday's deadline for a final deal until Tuesday. The proposed debt deal would ease payment terms for the utility.

Gov. Alejandro Garcia Padilla and other officials have said the authority's

18 months of negotiations with creditors show why Congress should grant the U.S. territory's public agencies access to Chapter 9 federal bankruptcy reorganization. The utility is the first of about a dozen entities that officials say need to restructure their debts.

The governor warned of a "humanitarian crisis" late Friday after Congress declined to extend Chapter

9 to Puerto Rico despite weeks of lobbying.

"By not acting now, Congress has opted to allow a U.S. commonwealth not pay its obligations and create chaos. Once more, Wall Street has shown its control over Congress; Wall Street is who controls Congress," he said in a statement.

Garcia Padilla announced in June that Puerto Rico's

\$72 billion public debt is not payable. He has since said the island's government is out of cash and will default on debt payments before next June. Chapter 9 would allow public corporations like the power authority to undergo a bankruptcy court-supervised restructuring process, rather than the voluntary debt negotiations taking place with creditors. □

Raul Castro urges US to end broadcasts aimed at Cuba

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban President Raul Castro urged the U.S. government Friday to halt radio and television broadcasts aimed at the island and other programs that Cuba considers harmful while reiterating that he is interested in deepening the thaw in relations with the United States.

The comment came in Castro's first review of the rapprochement that he and U.S. President Barack Obama began a year ago. In a rare broadcast of his speech on state television, the 84-year-old leader said, "Cuba will continue insisting that to achieve the normalization of relations it is imperative that the government of the United States remove all policies

of the past." Among the things he criticized are transmissions of Radio Marti and TV Marti to Cuba despite his government's objections. "The United States maintains programs that are harmful to Cuban sovereignty, such as projects to promote changes in our political, economic and social order," he said.

Castro, who took over Cuba's presidency from his older brother Fidel, also objected to U.S. immigration policy that gives preferences to Cuban migrants, offering them automatic residence if they reach U.S. territory. He repeated his call for an end to the five-decade-long U.S. trade embargo. □

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Election results ignite scattered violent protests in Haiti



National police officers stand guard during a protest against the country's electoral council in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. Several government buildings were set ablaze in Haiti and one demonstrator was killed in violent protests ignited by the release of final legislative election results, officials said Saturday.

(AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)
— Several government

buildings were set ablaze in scattered sections of Haiti and one demonstrator was killed in violent protests ig-

nited by the release of final legislative election results, officials said Saturday. Street demonstrations

and clashes between factions troubled several towns around the Caribbean country, though the crowded capital of Port-au-Prince and most other areas of the country of 10 million people were peaceful.

In parts of northern and southern Haiti, angry partisans insisted that the results released late Friday by the much-criticized electoral council did not reflect the will of voters. Presidential and legislative runoffs are scheduled for next weekend amid numerous accusations of fraud and manipulation of results.

Police Inspector Guytho Noel said an 18-year-old protester was fatally shot when two factions clashed on the streets of the northeastern town of Terrier Rouge. Demonstrators burned an elections office, set tire barricades aflame and smashed the windows

of a shop, he said.

In the nearby town of Ferrier, another elections office burned and the mayor's office was lit on fire. In northwestern Haiti, some houses and schools were set ablaze. Police also reported scattered unrest in a few parts of southern Haiti. The Haitian National Police said it was trying to restore order Saturday.

The long-delayed parliamentary results were released just over a week before the Dec. 27 runoffs. All 10 sitting members of Haiti's Senate had urged President Michel Martelly to prevent electoral authorities from issuing final results for legislative races until a commission could be set up to verify the integrity of the vote.

A series of elections this year is picking a new president, two-thirds of the 30-seat Senate, the entire 119-member Chamber of Deputies and numerous local offices. Gregory Mayard Paul, a spokesman for Martelly's Tet Kale party, noted Saturday that there have never been elections without street protests in Haiti's young democracy. The first genuinely free elections in Haitian history took place in 1990 but the transition to democracy has been rough.

"It will take time for some Haitians to understand that democracy means that some candidates win, other candidates lose. □

Costa Rica suspends visas for Cubans as regional protest

SAN JOSE, Costa Rica (AP)
— Costa Rica will suspend visas to Cuban migrants trying to head north to the U.S. after yet another failure Friday to broker a deal with neighbors that would create a corridor through Central America allowing them to pass. The visas will stop as of Saturday, President Luis Guillermo Solis said after returning from a meeting of the regional Central American

Integration System in El Salvador. Costa Rica also suspended its participation in the group to protest the lack of help from its neighbors in dealing with Cubans stranded within its borders. The country has nearly 6,000 Cuban migrants, many stuck in makeshift shelters, since Nicaragua refused in mid-November to let them pass through its territory on their way north

toward the United States. Some 2,000 more at the Panama border will be the last to get visas, said Kattia Rodriguez, Costa Rica's migration director. "Please do not come to Costa Rican territory. If you do, you will be deported," Solis said, lamenting that the country had to make the decision after Belize, Guatemala and Nicaragua failed to help come up with a solution.

Thousands of Cubans are migrating through Central America in fear that warming U.S.-Cuban relations could end their special immigration privileges in the United States.

Costa Rica brought up the topic at the trade meeting of Central America's leaders in El Salvador, and Solis spoke later in the day from San Jose. He said his government will suspend participation in the group. □

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Real Island Life: Notes From A Day On Aruba!

PALM BEACH - First of all, I like to welcome you to my island in the sun. Aruba's weather is always so predictable (hot and windy) and that might be the main reason you decided to come visit us. Of course besides the sun there is much more like: beaches, res-

taurants, shopping, gambling, activities and more. Talking about all those fun things to do here, if you live on the island full time, and work every day, you might forget that we truly live in a paradise. Of course on your off day you might go swim-

ming or drive around but it is after a few more days at home when you start realizing how beautiful our island really is. So I took some time to "smell the ocean breeze"..... I truly think that all locals should do so, once in a while, to appreciate where we live and what we have. Enjoy breakfast outside in your patio or yard. Breathe in and out.... Let it sink in a little. No rush and no hurry. Take time to enjoy your fresh squeezed lemon juice from your backyard trees with a fish omelet (left over's from last night's incredible catch of the day). Grab an ice cooler, fill it up with anything you like to drink cold, and start driving. Of course you can get



in an air-conditioned car, but also nice for the experience are the open-air jeeps. In that case all you need is to protect yourself with sun block because our sun is really strong-I recommend Aruba Aloe brand! Packed with a towel and the ice cooler I started driving along the coast line. Never realized how many different shades of blue really exist in the ocean. I counted at least 9 different types of blues-just like you see in famous movies like the "blue lagoon". First stop was the famous Charlie's Bar in San Nicolaas Main Street. Generation after generation of Charlie's have been running this cozy place, where you can spend hours looking around and identifying all the things visiting tourists have left behind to personalize the bar, like baseball caps, business cards, license plates and of course weird kind of souvenirs. Go check it out yourself..... Up to Baby Beach and Rogers beach. These are the places locals go. This is where we teach our kids to swim. Calm and shallow

waters, lots of space to lie out and catch some sun. If you pick a spot close to the Snack Container where they sell burger and refreshments you can enjoy 24-7 "golden oldies". Music you grew up with..... After a few hours of "vegging" on the beach staring at the turquoise ocean and listening to the birds that fly by and walk around it is time to get some food. Zeerovers in Savaneta is the place to go. Simple, clean and oh so good! The freshest fish on the island, brought in directly by our local fisherman. You order by the piece and or pound and as little or as much as you want. The price for fish and chips is so good that you for sure would ask: "is that all"? No fancy dinner ware, just plain easy simple plastic but I promise you that you will be licking your fingers while enjoying a few drinks and the best sunset on the island, island style..... You see now that a day in Aruba can fly by as long as you have fun enjoy every moment of it. Yes, you are in PARADISE!!!



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Loyal Guests Honored by the Aruba Tourism Association

PALM BEACH - Recently at the Divi Phoenix Resort, Aruba vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for 10 and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Visitor certificate, and those with twenty consecutive years are given the Goodwill Ambassador certificate. The recent honoring was hosted by Aruba Tourism Authority representative Ms. Marouska Heyliger at the Divi Phoenix Resort which they call their home away from home. The honorees were Patty and Stephen Cervini from New Jersey, Stacy Dellorfano from Massachusetts, Elaine Dellorfano from Massachusetts, Terri Austin from Missouri, Helen Scott and Elaine Dellorfano from Massachusetts, Judy Johnston and Curtis Courington from Virginia, Beverly and Donald Collins from Massachusetts, Lyn and Edward Wells from Massachusetts, and Leo and Ann Bissonete from Massachusetts. □



With "Protect the Reefs Bracelet Program"

Jolly Pirates Create Partnership For Reef Protection



HADICURARI - By bringing together the Aruba Marine Park Foundation and Aruba's visitors who enjoy the island's marine treasures, the island's most popular sail and snorkel company, Jolly Pirates has created a partnership that contributes to preservation and protection efforts. Through the "Protect the Reefs bracelet program", Jolly Pirates has hit on an easy

way to raise both awareness and funds. Jolly Pirates features attractive bracelets at its souvenir shop at MooMba Beach, in exchange for only a \$1 donation to the Aruba Marine Park Foundation. The donation, of which 100% goes to the foundation, has already proven an important investment in marine protection and awareness efforts.

The Aruba Marine Park Foundation is also currently working on other projects including a new public mooring system, individual reef care programs and the eventual implementation of Aruba's first Marine Park. Anyone can help support these initiatives through their own private donations or through the Jolly Pirates, with the op-

portunity to proudly display their support by wearing the colorful bracelets. One bracelet proudly proclaims: "I Love Aruba's Reefs". The bracelets also make for great souvenir gifts. For more information about the program, please visit the Jolly Pirates Souvenir shop, located at MooMba Beach, or become a

member of either the Aruba Heritage Museum Foundation or the Aruba Marine Park Foundation and participate in their projects, by calling (297) 736-2273, visiting the Aruba Marine Park Foundation Facebook page or by writing an email to: arubaheritemuseum@gmail.com or arubamarinepark@gmail.com □



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plains Sharla. "Nowadays, we are still very much involved, managing the company and making sure the feeling of being part of the family is intrinsic to each tour. What sets us apart is that our tours are made up of small groups so that the safari stays fun and personalized, giving our Tour Guides the flexibility to honor special requests on each tour and that means more value for your money." Guests who take part in any one of ABC Tours options quickly learn that this is not just another island tour. Each tour is filled with interesting information, and presented by enthusiastic guides, whose high energy helps provide for



both excitement and fun. The choice of stops is also

unique, with ABC Tours taking guests past the island's most breathtaking sceneries, and on to discover the hidden beauty of secluded beaches and dramatic rock formations as well as to well-known sites such as Baby Beach and the Natural Pool. To take even greater pleasure in the off-road experience, guests also have the opportunity to drive one of our 4x4 Land Rovers for a pure 4-wheel fun. All of ABC Tours' Land Rovers are specially equipped vehicles, with comfortable seats, that easily traverse island roads, and safely deliver you to each stop. Thrill seekers also have the option to cliff jump at The Natural Pool, only avail-

able on selected tours at ABC. The unique ABC Tours experience extends to the menu, with a home-cooked recipe for lunch or dinner as a part of each tour. Traditional meals are provided by Waka Waka restaurant, which uses secret, family recipes, passed down through four generations and provided by Sharla's own grandmother. The restaurant provides a true taste of Aruba, whether enjoying a meal after an unforgettable tour or simply stopping by, at any time, to try out any one of "Machi (Grandma) Betty's" delicious offerings, from delectable appetizers to scrumptious desserts. □

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Utah Scores on Turnovers Early, Holds on 35-28 Over BYU



Panthers Stay Perfect, Top Giants 38-35 in Nasty Game



BARRY WILNER
Associated Press
EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) - Graham Gano's 43-yard field goal as time expired kept Carolina perfect this season with a wild 38-35 victory over the New York Giants on Sunday.

Cam Newton threw for five touchdowns in building a 28-point lead before New York stormed back to tie it with 1:46 remaining.

Making yet another strong statement for NFL MVP honors, Newton led the Panthers (14-0) to their 18th straight regular-season victory. He has thrown for 19 touchdowns in the last five games and a career-best 33 in this so-far special season.

Carolina visits Atlanta and hosts Tampa Bay to finish the schedule. All three previous NFL teams to reach 14-0 - Miami in 1972, New England in 2007 and Indianapolis in 2009 - made the Super Bowl. Only the Dolphins won the championship, though.

Despite their rally, the Giants (6-8) fell one game behind Washington in the NFC East.

an up-for-grabs spiral that Aiken plucked out of the air and took into the end zone. □

New York Giants' Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie (41) and Carolina Panthers' Graham Gano (9) watch as Gano's kick is good during the second half of an NFL football game Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015, in East Rutherford, N.J. The Panthers won 38-35.
 (AP Photo/Peter Morgan)

Brem beats Gut to win women's World Cup GS



From left, Lara Gut and Nina Loeseth, who tied for the second place, celebrate on the podium with winner Eva-Maria Brem, after an alpine ski, women's World Cup giant slalom in Courchevel, France, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015. (AP Photo/Pier Marco Tacca)

JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

COURCHEVEL, France (AP)

— Austrian skier Eva-Maria Brem safely protected her lead from the first leg to win a World Cup giant slalom race on Sunday, picking up her second career win and denying Swiss racer Lara Gut a third straight race victory.

Gut, who overtook American Lindsey Vonn for the overall lead, finished tied for second place with Norway's Nina Loeseth, who secured a career-best result.

"I'd like to continue like this until March and not stop here," Gut said after her 24th career podium and first in Courchevel. "I could have done better in the first run, the second run I was just trying not to think about the tiredness in my legs."

It's been hectic for Vonn and Gut in the French Alps, first in Val d'Isere and then here for the GS.

Gut won Saturday's downhill, which Vonn failed to finish after skiing off course. She also won Friday's super-combined, beating Vonn by one hundredth of a second.

She got the upper hand again this time.

Vonn was 10th in the morning first run but finished 13th with sunny conditions fading on the Emile-Allais course.

"It just wasn't quite right today ... It was pretty dark second run, but normally I'm good at that," said Vonn, who picked up 20 World Cup points compared to Gut's 80. "I just kept catching my edge doing weird stuff. I didn't really feel very balanced. But it was a good effort; I tried really hard and got some points."

The 31-year-old Vonn felt tired after her near-crash on Saturday, and plans to have a rest far from the mountains before returning to action in another GS at the Austrian resort of Lienz on Dec. 28.

"After yesterday I'm just really sore and I physically need a break," she said. "I'm going to take a

couple of days off, see my sister in Florence and get ready for Lienz."

Brem's other race win was also a GS in Aspen, Colorado last year.

"The first win I won because I'm a fighter and this one I won because I stayed cool," the 27-year-old Brem said. "I think you need both. The first win is unbelievable but after this one I was crying."

Brem had come close this season, finishing second in GS in the Swedish resort of Are last weekend and in Aspen, Colorado last month.

After raising both arms high into the air, she tumbled down and lay on her side for a few moments. When she got up, a grinning Gut rushed over to hug her.

"I'm very strong in the head," said Brem, who has 10 career podiums. "But I just need that moment in every season when everything comes together."

The 26-year-old Loeseth was third in slalom last weekend in the Swedish resort of Are and third in slalom in January at the Croatian resort of Zagreb.

"It's a little strange for me that this is coming in GS but I'll take it," Loeseth said. "Hopefully 2016 will be even better."

Her performance caps a great few days for Norwegian racing.

On Friday, Aksel Lund Svindal won a super-G ahead of Kjetil Jansrud and Aleksander Aamodt Kilde for an "Attacking Vikings" podium sweep.

"It's very inspiring to see how the boys are skiing," Loeseth said. "They're pushing so hard, I want to do the same."

Loeseth could also take inspiration from Gut, who is strong in all disciplines and is shaping up as Vonn's only serious overall contender. She has 558 points to Vonn's 500, although the American — who is chasing a fifth overall title — leads 4-3 in race wins.

Their contest promises to be a thrilling one, with the 24-year-old Gut trying to take the pressure off herself. □

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Rafael dos Anjos stops Donald Cerrone in 1st round



Rafael dos Anjos celebrates his first-round win over Donald Cerrone in a mixed martial arts bout at UFC Fight Night on Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015, in Orlando, Fla. (Jacob Langston/Orlando Sentinel via AP)

BRIAN LINDER
Associated Press
ORLANDO, Fla. (AP) — Rafael dos Anjos stopped Donald Cerrone at 1:06 of the first round Saturday night to retain the UFC lightweight title. Dos Anjos hurt Cerrone with a left kick to the mid-section, moved in and unleashed a flurry of shots against the fence. Cerrone managed to escape and get back to the center of the octagon, but the fight went to the ground and dos Anjos finished it there. Dos Anjos improved to 35-7 in his first title defense and second victory of Cerrone. "I just proved that I am here to stay," dos Anjos said. "I'm here with my belt. It's just the beginning." Cerrone dropped to 28-7 after winning eight straight fights. "I didn't show up to work," Cerrone said. "Couldn't find my gear. He showed

up and I didn't. He did a good job." After the fight, dos Anjos delivered a message to featherweight champion Conor McGregor, who has said he plans to also fight in the lightweight division. "Conor McGregor has said he wants to come to my division," dos Anjos said. "I don't think that would be a smart decision for him, but I would be happy to welcome him. Earlier, Alistair Overeem (40-14) scored a technical knockout win over former UFC champion Junior Dos Santos (17-4) in a heavy-weight fight. The two combined to land just 11 strikes in the first round, with Overeem managing seven to Dos Santos' four, but the action picked up late in the second. After Dos Santos pressed Overeem against the cage with a combination, the two moved back

across the octagon where Overeem dropped Dos Santos with a left hook. Overeem, who picked up his third consecutive win, pounced on his downed opponent and landed four hammer fists before the fight was stopped. "Junior is a very dangerous opponent," Overeem said. "He throws bombs. He throws strong, so we had to have game plan and figure out his rhythm then

slowly pick him apart." In a lightweight fight, Nate Diaz (18-10) picked up a unanimous decision over Michael Johnson (16-10) in a standup battle. It was Diaz's first fight in over a year, and only his second win in his last five fights, but he looked sharp over the final two rounds to earn the decision. The two kept it standing the entire fight, and the lightning-quick Johnson got the

better of the exchanges in the first, out-striking Diaz 36-24. But Johnson slowed in the second, and Diaz began to land combinations as the two slugged it out in the second and third rounds. "I planned on him coming out fast and hard, so I figured he'd probably slow down," Diaz said. "I was just making sure I wasn't in a hurry and trying to make sure he didn't get too far ahead. □



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Utah scores on turnovers early, holds on 35-28 over BYU



Utah offensive lineman Siaso Aiono, center, celebrates with teammates Utah defensive tackle Viliseni Fauonuku, left, and Utah defensive end Jason Fanaika, right, after they defeated BYU in the Las Vegas Bowl NCAA college football game Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015, in Las Vegas. Utah won 35-28. (AP Photo/John Locher)

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TIM DAHLBERG

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) -- BYU kept turning the ball over, and Utah kept scoring.

About the only question left after five first quarter touchdowns by the Utes was how big their Las Vegas Bowl rout would be. Until BYU regained its composure, that is, and made it a game for both teams to remember.

Utah took advantage of a disastrous start by BYU, scoring five first-quarter touchdowns on turnovers - including two interceptions by Tevin Carter - before holding on Saturday to beat the Cougars 35-28.

"We ended up with the win, which is all that matters," Utah coach Kyle Whittingham said. "It's the only thing that matters."

Utah used its string of first quarter turnovers to build a 35-0 lead, then managed to hold on as BYU mounted a comeback that brought the Cougars to within one score with 3:23 left in the game. BYU couldn't get the ball back, though, losing in Bronco Mendenhall's last game after 11 years as head coach.

"We did lose the game," Mendenhall said. "But I'm taking with me a pretty good going away present."

After the game, BYU said it hired former Cougars running back Kalani Sitake as head coach. Sitake was Oregon State's assistant head coach and defensive coordinator.

Carter returned one of his picks for a touchdown and another to the 1 as No. 20 Utah romped to a 35-0 first-quarter lead in the first meeting of the two heated rivals outside of the state of Utah. BYU turned the ball over the first five times it had the ball, with freshman quarterback Tanner Mangum throwing three interceptions and fumbling once.

That was all the scoring Utah did, and it nearly cost the Utes the game. Mangum would bring BYU back, throwing two touchdown passes and rushing for another to get the Cougars

close.

"Giving up was never an option tight end Remington Peck said. "Everybody had the mentality that we would somehow find a way to get back in it."

Mendenhall's last game as BYU coach was almost over even before some of the fans settled into their seats, thanks to an opportunistic Utah defense that forced Mangum to fumble on the third play of the game. Midway through the first quarter, the Utes were already up 28-0.

In a statistical quirk, BYU actually outgained Utah offensively (89-69) in the first quarter. But Carter and Dominique Hatfield both scored on interceptions, Joe Williams had two 1-yard touchdown runs, and quarterback Travis Wilson added another TD on a 20-yard run.

"You're not going to lose a lot of games when you're plus-5 in the turnover department" Whittingham said. "We got complacent and that's on me. Next time we're up 35-0 hopefully we won't have the same results."

Mangum's shaky start didn't stop him from throwing for 315 yards in rallying his team. BYU dominated much of the game, but couldn't quite dig itself out of the big hole.

"I think the game was a little big for him at the beginning, but man he turned around and played a great game," said end Bronson Kaufusi, who played his last game. "Ultimately he gave us a chance to have the ball at the end."

Utah (10-3) came in as a 2-point favorite in the first meeting since 2013 of schools that have campuses just 46 miles from each other. But the quick succession of turnovers - Utah scored its first four touchdowns in a span of 3:30 - threatened to turn the game into a rout before BYU settled down.

BYU ended up with 386 yards to 197 for Utah, but the five early turnovers were the key in a game where the Utes didn't turn the ball over at all. □

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Dixon sets TD mark, La Tech beats ASU 47-28 in NO Bowl

BRETT MARTEL

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) -- Kenneth Dixon capped an extraordinary career at Louisiana Tech by setting NCAA touchdown and scoring records, all while leading the Bulldogs to a bowl victory. Dixon had 215 yards from scrimmage and scored four times to become the NCAA's career leader with 87 touchdowns and 522 points, and Louisiana Tech snapped Arkansas State's eight-game winning streak with a 47-28 triumph in the New Orleans Bowl on Saturday night.

Dixon's records could fall in a few days; Navy quarterback Keenan Reynolds takes his 85 career TDs and 512 points into the Military Bowl against Pittsburgh on Monday. If that happens, Dixon said he'd be happy for Reynolds.

"If he gets the record, it will be great. If I keep it, it's even greater," Dixon said. "Just to have two people chasing that record at the same time is remarkable."

Louisiana Tech quarterback Jeff Driskel then interjected light-heartedly that Reynolds "seems like a great guy, but I'm rooting against him."

Driskel, a transfer from Florida, closed out his college career by passing for 458 yards and three touchdowns for Louisiana Tech (9-4), which had 687 total yards in finishing a second straight season with a bowl

victory.

The performance gave Driskel 4,023 yards and 27 touchdown passes for the season. Receiver Trent Taylor said the Bulldogs could not have been more pleased to see their QB

serve every bit of it."

Dixon caught six passes for 113 yards and touchdowns of 9 and 59 yards. He carried 21 times for 102 yards, including scoring runs of 8 and 4 yards. He entered the game as the nation's

en accounted for 179 yards from scrimmage and scored one TD rushing for the Red Wolves (9-4), who won the Sun Belt Conference.

Blaise Taylor had a 98-yard kickoff return TD for Ar-

Arkansas State turned it over three times on two interceptions and a fumble. "Ultimately, the turnovers were the biggest key for us. It's not something we've done for a while," Arkansas State coach Blake Anderson said. "When we're playing our best we can play with anybody and when we turn the ball over we can't."

Arkansas State came in averaging 41 points per game, but did not manage an offensive touchdown after halftime.

"In the second half," Tech coach Skip Holtz said of his defense, "I thought they came out and honestly dominated."

Driskel got the Bulldogs off to a fast start, completing 10 of his first 12 passes for 170 yards and two touchdowns. He lofted long, accurate passes to set up each of the first two TDs - a 53-yard connection with Carlos Henderson set up the first and a 45-yarder to Trent Taylor led to the second, which put Tech up 17-3.

Arkansas State rallied to tie the score by halftime. Warren Wand's 1-yard score capped a 14-play, 91-yard drive that cut it to 17-10. Late in the second quarter, Blaise Taylor's 41-yard punt return gave the Red Wolves the ball on the Tech 25. Four plays later, Knighten ran it in from the 1. □



Arkansas State defensive back Blaise Taylor (1) breaks up a pass intended for Louisiana Tech wide receiver Marcus Gaines (16) during the second half of the New Orleans Bowl NCAA college football game Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015, in New Orleans. (AP Photo/Parker Waters)

close out his career with such a flourish after bouts with injuries and inconsistency at Florida.

"He was willing to do whatever it took to be a part of this team," Taylor said. "To see him finish the way he did tonight, it was awesome. All the hard work he's put in this year, he de-

active leader in yards rushing and finished his career with 4,480 yards on the ground.

Dixon's No. 28 jersey was ripped on his first TD run. He was allowed to replace it, symbolically, with a No. 1 jersey for the remainder of the game.

Quarterback Fredi Knight-

kanas State in the fourth quarter, but by then it was too late to mount a comeback.

Arkansas State's success this season stemmed from turnovers. The Red Wolves entered the game with 26 interceptions, most in the nation. But Tech did not turn the ball over, while

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Madrid routs 9-man Rayo Vallecano 10-2 in Spanish league

TALES AZZONI
AP Sports Writer

MADRID (AP) — Gareth Bale scored four goals,

Karim Benzema added three and Cristiano Ronaldo two as Real Madrid routed nine-man Rayo

Vallecano 10-2 to temporarily get within two points of Spanish league leaders Barcelona and Atletico

advantage count with a flurry of goals. Bale netted his second in the 41st and completed

and local media despite having the support of president Florentino Perez. Fans loudly jeered the coach

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Real Madrid's Gareth Bale heads the ball to score past Rayo Vallecano's Antonio Amaya, right, and Ze Castro, left, during the Spanish La Liga soccer match between Real Madrid and Rayo Vallecano at the Santiago Bernabeu stadium in Madrid, Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015.

(AP Photo/Francisco Seco)

Madrid. Madrid was losing with both teams at full strength at the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium, but it took advantage of two early red cards to Rayo Vallecano to get back into the game and ease the pressure on coach Rafa Benitez. Danilo opened the scoring in the third minute before Antonio Amaya equalized in the 10th and Jozabed Sanchez put Rayo ahead in the 12th. But Rayo lost Roberto "Tito" Roman to a straight red in the 14th after a foul on Toni Kroos and Madrid leveled through Bale in the 25th. Raul Baena was then sent off for a second bookable offence in the 28th after bringing down Sergio Ramos in the penalty area. Ronaldo netted the resulting spot kick to give Madrid a 3-2 lead. The hosts then made the two-man

his hat-trick in the 61st after Benzema and Ronaldo had struck in the 48th and 53rd, respectively. Bale added a fourth in the 70th before Benzema netted two more in the 79th and 90th minute for the game's second hat-trick. It was the first time Bale scored four goals for Real Madrid. Benzema had scored five times in Madrid's previous two games at home, including three in a Champions League game two weeks ago. "We started well but we didn't keep the same intensity," Real Madrid goalkeeper Keylor Navas said. "They took advantage of their opportunities, but then we took control of the game again and got an easy win." Madrid's victory made things easier for Benitez, who has been heavily criticized by fans

at the Santiago Bernabeu before the match, and another setback on Sunday could have meant the end of the line for the manager. "It's normal the fans jeer because we are not in first place, which is where we need to be," Navas said. "We are with the coach. We need to be united if we want to be in contention at the end of the season. We can't put the blame on anybody." Call for Benitez's departure increased after the team's 1-0 loss at Villarreal last weekend, which kept Madrid from cutting into Barcelona's lead. Former star playmaker Zinedine Zidane has been widely touted by local media as Benitez's replacement, and rumors of his imminent departure only increased after Jose Mourinho and Pep Guardiola became available on the market. □



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AP EXPLAINS: Why Trump can't shut down the Internet



Donald Trump makes a point during the CNN Republican presidential debate at the Venetian Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. During the debate, Trump stated that since the extremist Islamic State group is using the Internet to recruit; the tech industry needs to find a way to stop them from doing that.

(AP Photo/John Locher)

BREE FOWLER

AP Technology Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Donald Trump says the government must work with “brilliant people” in Silicon Valley to keep violent extremists offline, even if it means shutting down parts of the Internet.

But what he's proposing isn't possible with today's technology. And even if it were, such a move would likely hurt more than potential attackers, and it would hinder the government's ability to keep tabs on them.

Here's a look at Trump's idea and why it won't work:

WHAT TRUMP SAID

During Tuesday's Republican presidential debate, Trump said that because the extremist Islamic State group is using the Internet to recruit, the tech industry needs to find a way to stop them from doing that.

“ISIS is recruiting through the Internet. ISIS is using the Internet better than we are using the Internet, and it was our idea,” Trump said. “What I wanted to do is I wanted to get our brilliant people from Silicon Val-

ley and other places and figure out a way that ISIS cannot do what they're doing.”

WHAT TRUMP PROPOSES

Trump went on to say that that he would be open to closing parts of the Internet that cover areas where the U.S. is at war or where IS operates, such as parts of Syria and Iraq.

Even better, he said, would be to tap the brightest minds from the U.S. to infiltrate extremists' Internet gatherings and stay up on their activities — something U.S. intelligence agencies are already working at.

Trump isn't alone in calling on Silicon Valley's brainpower to figure out a way to keep violent extremists off social networks and messaging services. Democrat Hillary Clinton also has said the U.S. government and technologists should work together to block potential attackers from using the Internet to draw in new supporters.

FIRST OBSTACLE: THE INTERNET ITSELF

For one thing, the U.S. doesn't control the Inter-

net. No one does. Because the Internet is a global network of networks that are all owned by different governments, companies or individuals, “no one person owns it,” said Charlie Baker, vice president of product management for the Internet performance company Dyn.

ROUTING AROUND OBSTACLES

Ferretting out extremist groups and kicking them off the Internet in the U.S. just isn't realistic, given how rapidly the fluid Internet grows and changes.

And the U.S. just doesn't have the technical ability to cut off Internet access in a country it doesn't control. (Military action might be a different story, although it presents difficulties of its own.)

Baker added that people have a long history of finding their way around Internet restrictions whether it's democracy activists in China or Iran, or tweens looking to circumvent their school's firewall.

THE PROBLEM WITH SOCIAL MEDIA

Groups such as IS have mastered social media for recruiting and spreading their message.

Both Twitter and Facebook declined to comment on Trump's remarks, but say they don't tolerate posts that promote violence and aggressively remove such posts when reported by their users. Twitter bans accounts if they're linked to such activity.

BANNED - ACCOUNT WHACK-A-MOLE

But there's nothing stopping banned users from opening new accounts

under different names, equivalent of “Whack-A-Mole.” □



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Fund manager Q&A:

Can go-go growth stocks abroad keep going?



Specialist Robert Nelson, foreground, works with traders at his post on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. Rajesh Gandhi thinks investors focusing on growth overseas in this tepid global economy are onto something.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

STAN CHOE
AP Business Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Rajesh Gandhi thinks investors focusing on growth overseas in this tepid global economy are onto something.

Gandhi, as portfolio manager at the American Century International Growth mutual fund, is watching investors put more of their money into foreign stocks and especially into the few sectors able to produce strong revenue and earnings growth, like health care.

Nearly \$210 billion flowed into international stock mutual funds over the last year, according to Morningstar. At the same time, investors pulled a net \$56 billion from U.S. stock funds. The popularity of this relatively small number of foreign stocks is pushing their prices sharply higher. But Gandhi thinks these stocks, especially in Europe, are

poised for more gains even though they're looking expensive on several measures. He explains why below. Answers have been edited for length and clarity.

Q: Economic growth around the world is weak, and China's getting a lot of the blame. How bad are things in China and around the world?

A: We are operating in a subpar growth world. Even in the U.S., even with all the stimulus we put through, we are producing 2-and-change percent growth. And the same thing is happening in Japan. The same thing is happening in Europe.

(China's) government's statistics indicate that it's growing at about 7 percent. The reality is it's growing at, we think, 3.5 or 4 percent. But 3.5 or 4 percent for an economy that was truly growing 7, 8, or even

10 percent before is still going to feel like a recession in many ways.

When we talk with companies today, their biggest fear is a continued slowdown in growth in China. It's still being evidenced in their businesses.

Q: Given how weak growth is, it seems like the few companies that have delivered it have seen their share prices soar.

A: Earnings growth is increasingly scarce. So those businesses that are demonstrating growth and consistently delivering growth are getting bid up. Their (price-earnings) multiples continue to expand, and that's where the dollars keep moving.

Q: In the U.S., investors seem to be crowding into the same, small group of stocks.

A: It's the same in international markets. Growth is narrowing, and growth in-

vestors keep moving into fewer and fewer names.

Q: Is there a corollary in the international markets for Facebook and Amazon, stocks that everyone seems to be piling into?

A: There isn't so much a focus on specific, innovative companies. But, generally, the health care sector has directly benefited from a continued migration, and the price-earnings multiples have expanded. Now, we feel that's justified, because growth is accelerating for a lot of the large pharmaceutical companies in Europe for the first time in a long time.

Parts of the tech sector are benefiting from that. We don't have an Amazon in Europe or Japan, but we have Amazon-like businesses.

Q: Is this subset of stocks now too risky? Is it time to sell high and walk away?

A: Given how we see the world playing out over the next 12 to 18 months, if I had to give advice to an investor, I think you still want to be in growth and growth-oriented strategies because growth is still going to be scarce next year. Global growth is not accelerating and has more risk to it over the next 12 months than we had over the previous 12 months. Therefore, growth stocks are going to do reasonably well despite the valuations that are being accorded to them.

Q: Where are you finding the best opportunities?

A: More of them tend to be in Europe, because on a relative basis, the European region is demonstrating improving growth. □

AP: Southwest staff suspended on missing work

DALLAS (AP) Southwest Airlines has suspended more than 100 ground workers who it says skipped work without permission to attend union meetings in California and Florida last month.

The Transportation Workers Union Local 555 billed the meetings as a "strike preparation summit."

The union said on its website it is appealing the suspensions, which range from 45 to 90 days.

Relations between Southwest and Local 555 have been strained as negotiations on a new contract have dragged on.

The employees protest that even though Southwest is earning record profits, they have not received a raise since their last contract came up for renegotiation more than three years ago. Last month,

Southwest filed a lawsuit against the union, saying that it believed workers were planning an illegal strike over the busy Thanksgiving holiday weekend.

Southwest spokesman Bob Hughes said Friday that employees can take personal time off unless the company declares an emergency, which he said it did before the November meetings.

He said employees who missed work were interviewed, and those who couldn't show a valid reason for their absence were suspended.

Hughes said the airline had to shuffle workers to fill shortages at some Southern California airports and flights might have been delayed but none were cancelled due to the absences.

Union officials did not immediately respond to messages seeking comment. On its website,

the union said some of those who were suspended were among more than 350 people who used their own time to attend union meetings last month in Southern California and Orlando, Florida. □

5-year Nexteer, union deal easily wins approval

SAGINAW, Michigan (AP) — Union members at a major Michigan auto supplier approved a five-year contract, officials said Saturday, just a few weeks after rejecting the first deal and staging a brief strike.

Nexteer Automotive makes steering systems for General Motors, Ford Motor and other auto companies.

Roughly 3,000 employees are represented by the United Auto Workers in the Saginaw area, 100 miles north of Detroit.

The UAW said the deal with Nexteer was approved by 61 percent of workers who cast ballots. There was a brief strike earlier in December after the first deal was rejected.

"The people have spoken," said Rick Burzynski, president of Local 699.

The contract includes pay increases and a \$2,000 ratification bonus.

"With this new agreement in place, all Nexteer employees continue to give their full attention to delivering advanced steering and driveline products to

our customers," said Mark Decker, a company vice president.

Nexteer is Saginaw County's largest employer with nearly 5,000 employees, The Saginaw News reported. The company has 12,000 employees worldwide and is owned by China-based Pacific Century Motors. □

Buying a car? A home? Fed rate hike shouldn't matter much

C. S. RUGABER
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — For anyone considering whether to buy a home or car, the Federal Reserve's interest rate increase Wednesday

will most likely rise, though probably only slightly.

The rate the Fed controls is only one factor among many that can influence longer-term borrowing costs. And the Fed made

safe and decent investment. And heavy purchases of Treasuries by U.S. and foreign investors — and by many foreign governments, such as China — help keep those yields low.

Even with a rate increase, most economists expect consumer spending to stay healthy and solid hiring to continue, perhaps even driving unemployment even further below its current low level of 5 percent. Should the economy stumble, the Fed could postpone further rate increases.

Other trends are also working in consumers' favor: Gas prices are still falling, and there are signs that paychecks are finally starting to rise after years of sluggish growth.

"These things are good for the consumer and will easily outweigh the impact of a rate increase," said Chris Christopher, an economist at forecasting firm IHS Global Insight.

The most visible effects of the Fed increases will probably be in short-term borrowing. Rates for credit cards and home equity lines of credit should rise, typically by the same amount as the Fed's increase. The increases could appear as soon as one or two months after the Fed's action. Those rates are tied to banks' prime rate, which responds quickly to the Fed's changes.

Also, Americans with adjustable-rate mortgages will probably face a higher rate at the date of their next adjustment. Auto-loan costs may rise as well, economists said, though not as fast as the short-term rate the Fed controls. Auto-loan rates typically follow the yield on two-year Treasuries.

Greg McBride, chief financial analyst at Bankrate.com, calculates that for a \$25,000, five-year car loan, a one-quarter percentage point increase would boost monthly payments by precisely \$3.

"The interest rate impact on the typical household from a quarter percentage point move is almost inconsequential," he said. "Most people won't even notice." □



A for sale sign is posted in front of a home in Miami. The loan rates that most people pay for homes or cars aren't expected to jump in response to the Fed rate hike announced on Wednesday, Dec. 16, 2015.

(AP Photo/Lynne Sladky)

day shouldn't make much difference.

The rates that most people pay for mortgages, auto loans or college tuition aren't expected to jump anytime soon. The Fed's benchmark interest rate has limited influence on those things.

Still, the Fed's move to lift its key rate by a quarter-percentage point will raise short-term borrowing costs for banks. And that, in turn, is intended to prod banks to boost certain other rates. Rates on credit cards and home equity loans and credit lines, for example,

clear it will assess the economy's health before raising rates further.

"Loans that are linked to longer-term interest rates are unlikely to move very much," Fed Chair Janet Yellen said at a news conference. "Credit card rates ... might move up slightly. But remember, we have very low rates, and we've made a very small move." Mortgage rates tend to move in sync with the yield on 10-year Treasury notes. When inflation remains as low as it is now, Treasury notes, with their modest returns, are considered a

"The demand for Treasuries has mushroomed," said Carl Tannenbaum, chief economist at Northern Trust. "What that means is that for any given monetary policy, interest rates are still going to be lower than they would have been 10 or 15 years ago." The Fed's decision to raise rates is in many ways a healthy sign: It's a vote of confidence that the economy, 6½ years after the Great Recession officially ended, can finally withstand higher borrowing costs and keep growing at an acceptable pace.

Wal-Mart looks to China for new US marketing chief

NEW YORK (AP) — Wal-Mart is turning to its marketing chief in China to shape how it relays its message to shoppers in the U.S.

The world's largest retailer named Tony Rogers as chief marketing officer for the U.S. this weekend. He will report to Greg Foran, president and CEO of Wal-Mart's U.S. division starting in mid-January. Rogers, a 10-year-veteran at the

company, has been the head of marketing and social media in China for two years.

Rogers succeeds long-time marketing chief Stephen Quinn, who retires next month.

Wal-Mart has also beefed up its marketing muscle by hiring former Target marketing executive Michael Francis as consultant. Francis is best known for his

nearly 30-year career at Target, where he helped create the discounter's cheap-chic image through whimsical advertising.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., in a shift, is focusing on higher-income shoppers where it sees more growth. But it's still a tricky feat. The Bentonville, Arkansas-based company announced in October that annual profit could fall as much as 12

percent for its fiscal 2017 as it invests heavily online and in its stores. The retailer is facing increasing competition from online players like Amazon.com and from dollar-store chains.

Prior to moving to China, Rogers worked for eight years in the Wal-Mart's marketing division. Before joining Wal-Mart, Rogers spent several years with PepsiCo's Frito-Lay division. □

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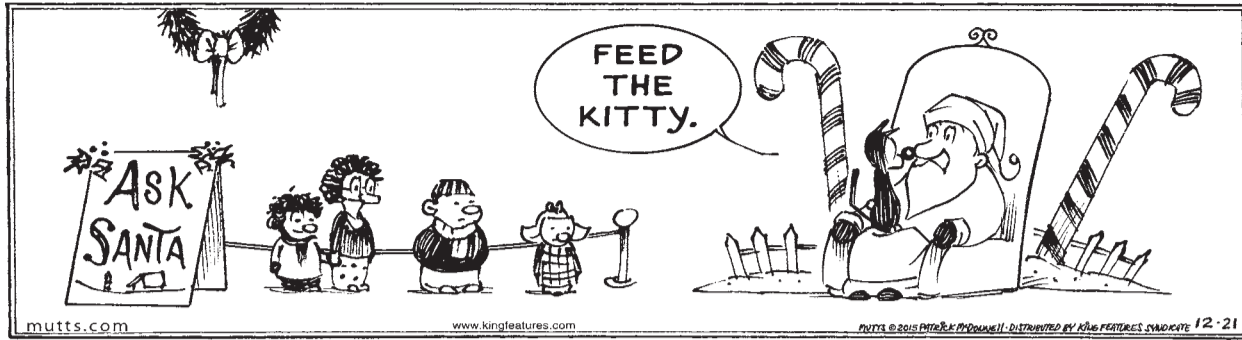
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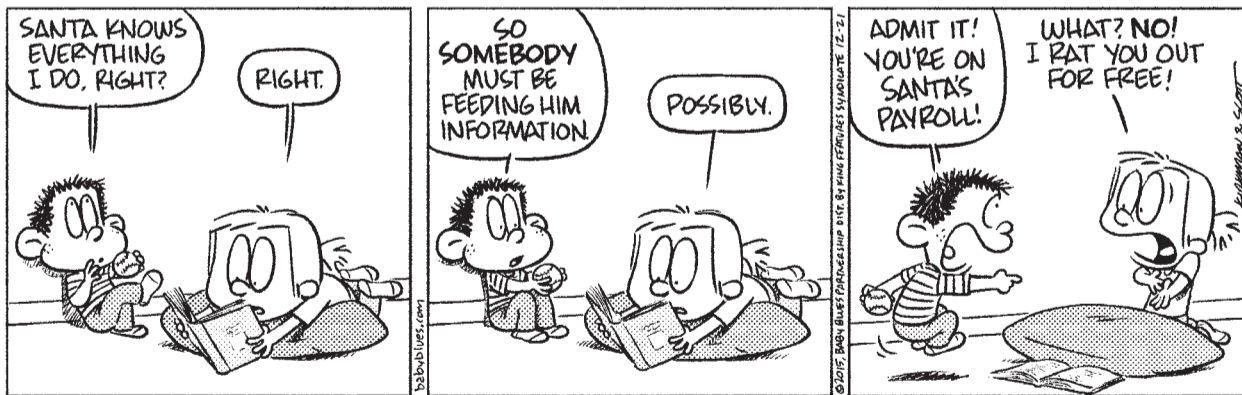
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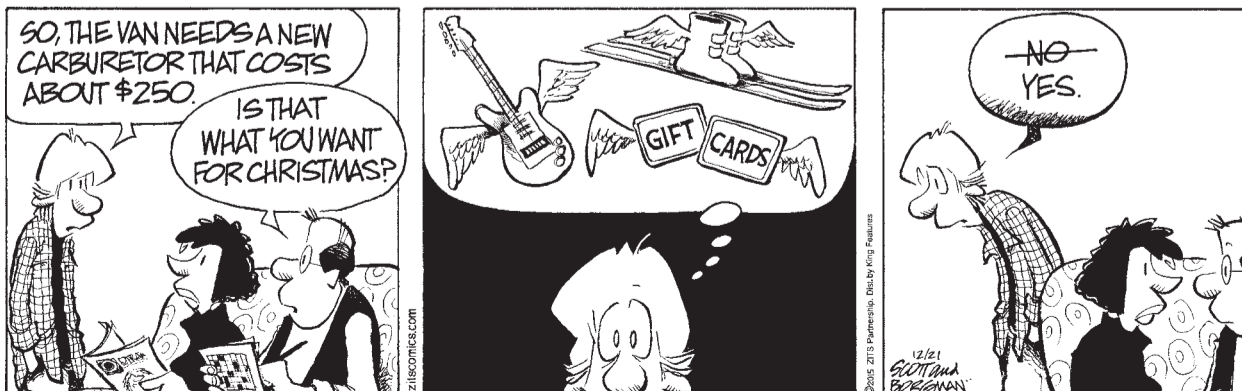
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Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

	4						7	9
2		3	9			4		5
	6			5	7		3	
	9				1	8		
		5				7		
		4	8				9	
	5		2	9			6	
9	1				4	5		3
4	2						8	

Difficulty Level ★ 12/21

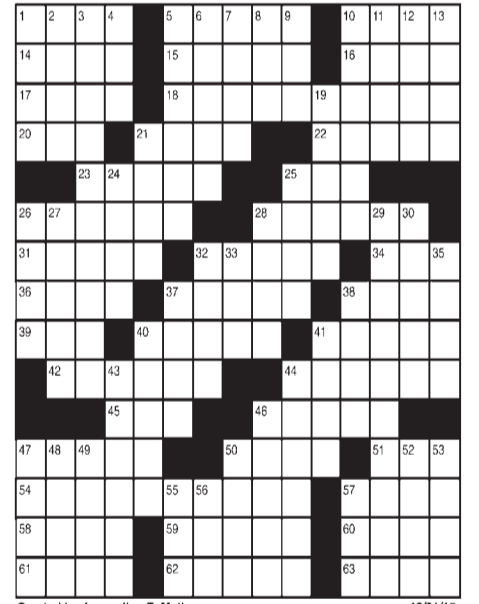
Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Saturday's puzzle answer

8	5	6	4	2	7	3	9	1
7	1	3	9	8	6	5	4	2
9	2	4	3	1	5	7	6	8
6	7	8	2	3	1	9	5	4
1	4	2	6	5	9	8	3	7
5	3	9	8	7	4	1	2	6
3	6	1	7	9	2	4	8	5
2	8	7	5	4	3	6	1	9
4	9	5	1	6	8	2	7	3

ACROSS

- 1 Throw
- 5 Ease, as someone's fear
- 10 Like water — duck's back
- 14 Prefix meaning "opposed to"
- 15 Idaho's capital
- 16 Precious
- 17 Jacket fastener, often
- 18 Drug that puts you to sleep during surgery
- 20 ...FDR, ... DDE, JFK...
- 21 King toppers
- 22 Drug addicts
- 23 Bring upon oneself, as a penalty
- 25 Yrb. section
- 26 Moves over
- 28 Rose ... New Year's event
- 31 Bodies of water
- 32 Tongue-tingling
- 34 Break a fast
- 36 "Woe is me!"
- 37 Smooth and shiny
- 38 Navy or azure
- 39 Knight's title
- 40 ... up for; defend
- 41 Playground structure
- 42 Young swan
- 44 Spheres
- 45 Rule
- 46 Sioux or Crow
- 47 Move furtively
- 50 Sun's ray
- 51 Male sheep
- 54 Place visited in Alice's dream
- 57 Recipe verb
- 58 Artist Warhol
- 59 Self-assurance
- 60 Singer Redding
- 61 Nickname for Elizabeth
- 62 Fellows
- 63 Stiller & Affleck



Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 12/21/15

Saturday's Puzzle Solved

PLOY	OSCAR	OWLS
HONE	WEAVE	PEAL
IOTA	NEPAL	PACE
STORIES	LABORED	
	NOD	BOXES
ADIEU	CAN	LEAVE
SEND	HAL	HIDDEN
HAT	RELAPSE	ONE
ELEVEN	NOT	DRUM
STRAP	BCD	HONEY
	LEVEE	PAL
SIMILAR	DISEASE	
ACES	SNARE	FLEA
GALE	EIDER	USER
ANTS	SEMIS	LOPS

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DOWN

- 1 Money
- 2 Curry & others
- 3 Not moving
- 4 Waiter's hope
- 5 Early counting device
- 6 Recluse
- 7 Tells a whopper
- 8 Donkey
- 9 However
- 10 Ukrainian port
- 11 Celebration
- 12 Bazaar
- 13 Circle portions
- 19 Rush
- 21 ... like; imitates
- 24 ... off; dozens
- 25 Picture card
- 26 Mineral springs
- 27 Baby's ailment
- 28 "The ... Piper of Hamelin"
- 29 Done on purpose
- 30 ... cologne; perfume
- 32 Thin board
- 33 Pigsty
- 35 Golf ball pegs
- 37 Worry; fret
- 48 Zero
- 49 Concludes
- 50 Arrestee's hope
- 52 Related
- 53 Disarray
- 55 Record speed letters
- 56 Mauna
- 57 Barker or Dylan

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wk 50	room 546	\$6,000
wk 49	room 2571	\$3,750
wk 48	room 517	\$3,750
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Climate researchers employ tool from 1800s: Whaling Logs



New Bedford Whaling Museum senior maritime historian Michael Dyer combs through the racks of whaling vessel log books in New Bedford, Mass. Maritime historians, climate scientists and ordinary citizens are coming together on a project to study 19th-century whaling ship logbooks to better understand modern-day climate change. The New Bedford Whaling Museum is transcribing and digitizing its logbooks as well as original data sources for this project, called Old Weather: Whaling. (AP Photo/Stephan Savoia)

MARK PRATT
Associated Press
NEW BEDFORD, Mass. - Maritime historians, climate scientists and ordinary citizens are coming together on a project to study the logbooks of 19th-century whaling ships to better understand modern-day climate change and Arctic weather patterns. Whaling ships kept meticulous daily logbooks of weather conditions during their often yearslong voyages searching the

globe for whales, valued for their light-giving oil, said Michael Dyer, senior maritime historian at the New Bedford Whaling Museum, which is supplying much of the data. Some logs include information about life on board, such as sailors falling overboard, or being disciplined for stealing or other transgressions, and of course, notations whenever whales are spotted. More important for this project, they include pre-

cise longitude and latitude measurements, weather conditions, the presence of icebergs and the edge of the ice shelf. "If they're cruising in the Bering Strait and there's ice, there will be a notation in the logbook that ice fields are present," Dyer said. The project, called Old Weather: Whaling, is led by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The whaling museum is transcribing and digitizing

its own logbooks, as well as original data sources from the Nantucket Historical Association, Martha's Vineyard Museum, Mystic Seaport in Connecticut, and the New Bedford Free Public Library. The digitized logbooks are being posted online so ordinary "citizen-scientists" can help researchers sift through the vast amounts of information. The museum has about 2,600 whaling logbooks dating from 1756 to 1965, but the project so far includes just about 300 logbooks related to whaling trips to the Arctic from the mid-1800s to the first decade of the 20th century. One entry from the San Francisco-based whaler Beluga during a two-year voyage to the Bering, Chukchi and Beaufort seas from 1897 to 1899 is typical of the information in the logs. "Lat. 61.19. Long. 175.42. Fast to the ice till 6 A.M. then made sail and worked to the N.E. at 8:45 A.M. Commenced steaming. Steamed till 1 P.M. then struck open water. Carrying topsail and fore and aft sails. Steering from N.N.W. to N.E. as the ice al-

lowed. Wind light and variable first part. Latter part strong E.S.E. winds thick and snowing. Ther. 30. Bar. 29.60." On a most basic level, the information from an old whaling logbook can be compared to current conditions; for example, is there sea ice today in the places where whalers saw sea ice 150 years ago? But the project is much more than that, said Kevin Wood, a climate scientist with NOAA's Joint Institute for the Study of the Ocean and Atmosphere at the University of Washington and a lead researcher on the project. By recovering as much weather data as possible, the information could help create sophisticated computer models of past climate and help predict future conditions. He called it a "virtual time-traveling weather satellite." "We can build an enormously detailed reconstruction of the conditions at the time ... and we can we can understand how the climate has been changing over a longer period of time," Wood said. The project launched this month is an offshoot of Old Weather, an ongoing partnership between NOAA and Zooniverse, the citizen science Web portal that is looking at logbooks of other vessels, including merchant and naval ships. Sifting through the documents is where the public comes in. There is just too much data for a small group of scientists to pore over. High-resolution images of historical documents, extracted data and related research products are available online, said Michael Lapedes, the museum's director of digital initiatives. □

NASA: Spacewalk needed to move stalled rail car

MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Two Americans aboard the International Space Station are gearing up for a spacewalk early this week to free a stalled rail car. Flight controllers in Houston were moving the rail car on the outside of the orbiting lab when it got stuck Wednesday. It stalled just 4 inches from its lock-down position. NASA operations man-

ager Kenny Todd said Friday the car needs to be securely attached to its guide rails before any dockings by visiting spacecraft. Russia plans to launch a supply ship Monday for a linkup Wednesday. NASA's one-year spaceman Scott Kelly and the newly arrived Timothy Kopra could step outside as early as Monday. Managers will decide whether to proceed or wait until Tuesday.

Engineers believe a stuck brake handle is to blame. This mobile transport system is normally used to transport people and equipment, including the station's big robot arm. Todd said it was fortunate the car ended up in the middle rather than on the end of the space station's long, trusslike framework. At least the center-of-gravity is good, and access should be easy for the spacewalkers, he said. "We kind of got lucky. If

we're going to have this kind of problem, we're ... right almost in the middle of the truss," Todd said in a NASA TV interview. The spacewalk would last about three hours, and the astronauts might even be asked to take care of a few other tasks. Kelly is three-quarters of the way into a one-year mission that's due to end in March. Kopra arrived Tuesday, launching from Kazakhstan with Russian and British colleagues. □

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'Star Wars' blasts opening weekend record with \$238 million



This photo shows Daisy Ridley, right, as Rey, and John Boyega as Finn, in a scene from the film, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," directed by J.J. Abrams. The film brought in a galactic \$238 million over the weekend, making it the biggest North American debut of all time according to studio estimates on Sunday. (David James/Disney/Lucasfilm via AP)

LINDSEY BAHR
AP Film Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — To say that the force is strong with this one is an understatement.

"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" brought in a galactic \$238 million over the weekend, making it the biggest North American debut of all time according to studio estimates on Sunday.

The Walt Disney Co. earnings destroy the previous opening record set by Universal's "Jurassic World," which drew \$208.8 million this summer.

Internationally, the film brought in \$279 million, bringing its global gross to \$517 million — second only to "Jurassic World's" global bow of \$525 million. But the dinosaurs had the added benefit of China — "Star Wars" won't open there until Jan. 9.

This is just the latest in a laundry list of records set by J.J. Abrams' film, the seventh in the franchise, which had analysts anticipating a debut anywhere from \$150 million to \$300 million.

The "X-factor" was quality. While "The Force Awak-

ens" drew enormous pre-sales, the film was kept under lockdown from the press and critics until mere days before it was released to the public. Reviews turned out to be stellar (95 percent on Rotten Tomatoes), as did early audience reaction, who gave the film an A CinemaScore.

Rentrak's Senior Media Analyst Paul Dergarabedian said that's the key element that may push the film to the \$2 billion mark by the end of its run. Many are already going back for a second helping.

"The enthusiasm has really turned into a cultural event," said Dave Hollis, Disney's executive vice president of theatrical distribution. "It's unbelievable."

"It feels historic. The marketing team has embarked on a two-plus year journey to create this event feel," Hollis added. "It's hard to think you could replicate this, but never say never." Males overwhelmingly drove the astronomical earnings, comprising 58 percent of the audience. "Many of the bigger films of the past few years have

been driven by that often marginalized female audience," Dergarabedian said. "This proves that if you put the right film in the marketplace, the guys will show up in big numbers. You can still break records with one gender being the dominant one."

He predicted that over time, Daisy Ridley's protagonist may help even the gender breakdown. Hollis agreed, noting that the

breakdown evened out across the weekend too. Friday audiences were 63 percent male, he said.

The film also drew mainly adults, who made up 71 percent of the audience. Teens accounted for only 9 percent, but those numbers may go up in the coming weeks as holiday vacations kick in.

IMAX, 3D and other premium large format screens further helped drive the

massive earnings. Nearly half of moviegoers — 47 percent — chose to see the film on the generally pricier screens. IMAX screens alone accounted for \$48 million of the global earnings.

But "Star Wars" didn't fly alone this weekend. A few other movies attempted to provide some counter-programming and ended up with comparatively decent results. □



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Wednesday
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8:00 PM



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FBI files: Military questioned Pete Seeger's wartime loyalty

**MICHAEL HILL
GEORGE M. WALSH
Associated Press**

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — As Army Pvt. Pete Seeger eagerly waited for a chance to fight for his country during World War II, military investigators quietly built a case that the young folk singer was “potentially subversive.”

In a security investigation triggered by a wartime letter he wrote denouncing a proposal to deport all Japanese-Americans, the Army intercepted Seeger's mail to his fiancée, scoured his school records, talked to his father, interviewed an ex-landlord and questioned his pal Woody Guthrie, according to FBI files obtained by The Associated Press.

Investigators concluded that Seeger's association with known communists and his Japanese-American fiancée pointed to a risk of divided loyalty.



In this 2006 photo, Pete Seeger talks during an interview in Beacon, N.Y. The FBI released more than 1,700 pages of documents about Seeger after the folk singer died at age 94, in January 2014.

(AP Photo/Frank Franklin II)

Seeger's “Communitic sympathies, his unsatisfactory relations with landlords and his numerous Communist and otherwise undesirable friends, make him unfit for a position of trust or responsibility,” according to a military intelligence report.

The investigation, forwarded to FBI Director J. Edgar

Hoover, is detailed in more than 1,700 pages from Seeger's FBI file, released by the National Archives under the Freedom of Information Act.

The musician and left-wing activist known for such songs as “If I Had a Hammer,” “Where Have All the Flowers Gone” and “Turn, Turn, Turn” died in January

2014 at age 94.

The government's interest in Seeger is no surprise. He was a member of the Communist Party for a period of time, as he later acknowledged, saying he quit around 1950, and he performed with Guthrie and others in the proudly leftist Almanac Singers before he was drafted.

But the newly released files show the lengths to which the government went to keep tabs on the singer's travels, performances and rally appearances at least into the 1970s. The archives plan to release additional Seeger files in the future.

The degree to which the security investigation affected his military career is not spelled out in the files. Seeger trained as an airplane mechanic at Keesler Field in Mississippi and, according to his file, expressed frustration that he was being kept stateside instead of being sent

to where the fighting was. Ultimately, the singer and banjo player spent time in the Special Services, entertaining soldiers in the South Pacific, and made corporal.

Based on these records, Seeger underwent what appears to be his first major investigation after writing a letter to the California American Legion in 1942 criticizing the organization's resolution “advocating deportation of all Japanese, citizens or not, and barring all Japanese descendants from citizenship.” This was during a time Japanese-Americans, many of them from California, were being forced to live in government internment camps.

“We're fighting precisely to free the world of such Hitlerism, such narrow jingoism,” Seeger wrote.

What followed was a wide-ranging probe by the military into Seeger's background. □

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Kurt Masur, who led New York Philharmonic, dies at 88

**GEIR MOULSON
FRANK JORDANS
Associated Press**

BERLIN (AP) — Kurt Masur was a conductor who knew how to use his authority. He used it to tame orchestras — notably the unruly New York Philharmonic, which he led for 11 years — and to historic effect in his native land, when his call for calm helped prevent violence during tense 1989 pro-democracy protests in East Germany.

Masur died Saturday at age 88 in a hospital in Greenwich, Connecticut, from complications from Parkinson's disease, the New York Philharmonic said, issuing a statement praising his "profound belief in music."

His move to ward off violence in East Germany was, Masur later acknowledged, a belated move in a country that many artists had long turned their backs on but in which he held a position of rare international renown as the director of Leipzig's storied Gewandhaus Orchestra, where his predecessors included Felix Mendelssohn.

"I was busy with music for too long," Masur recalled in an interview last year with the German weekly *Der Spiegel*. "But when I learned that all of a sudden street musicians were being arrested for wanting to protest peacefully, I realized that change was overdue." By 1989, Leipzig had become the focal point for the demonstrations that would culminate

in the opening of the Berlin Wall and the end of communist rule. As tensions rose on Oct. 9 — and with the bloody Tiananmen Square crackdown in China still fresh on people's minds —

tled East German authorities gave in to popular pressure and opened the country's border with the West. When Germany was reunified on Oct. 3, 1990, Masur directed Beethoven's Ninth

al de France, among a slew of engagements that spanned three continents, but spurned the political role that some suggested for him. When his name surfaced during the search for

fully petitioned East Germany's Communist leader Erich Honecker for a new concert hall. "The orchestra had been playing in a congress hall at the zoo since the end of the war," he recalled. "During quiet sections you could hear the lions roar." He inaugurated the orchestra's new home in 1981 with the Latin words: "res severa verum gaudium (true joy is a serious thing)." Masur made his U.S. debut in 1974 with the Cleveland Orchestra and took the Gewandhaus Orchestra of Leipzig on its first American tour that year.

After being chosen as music director of the New York Philharmonic, some critics worried that his intense work ethic and conservative German musical style weren't suited to the U.S. orchestra.

He defied them by taming the Philharmonic, an orchestra seen as an unmanageable ensemble of egos when he took over from Zubin Mehta in 1991. Masur "managed to get everybody to focus on the product of what we are doing," concertmaster Glenn Dicterow said before the conductor's departure in 2002. He said the orchestra was "not the bad boy of music anymore." "What we remember most vividly is Masur's profound belief in music as an expression of humanism," Philharmonic President Matthew Vansbesien said in a statement Saturday announcing the conductor's death. □



In this 2005 photo, German conductor Kurt Masur conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra at the Lucerne Festival in Lucerne, Switzerland. New York Philharmonic said Saturday, Dec. 19, 2015 music director emeritus Kurt Masur, from Germany, has died at 88.

(Sigi Tischler/Keystone via AP)

Masur and five others — a satirist, a cleric and three party officials — issued a public statement calling for calm and promising dialogue.

With security forces massing in the streets and young people saying goodbye to their families as if heading to war, a recording — read by Masur — was broadcast on speakers throughout the city. Without it, he later said "blood would have flowed."

A month later, the embat-

ment was held at the official celebrations. Germany's minister of culture, Monika Gruetters, paid tribute Saturday to Masur's musical legacy and his role in the peaceful revolution "when he used his high authority to compel the power of the state to react without violence to the mass demonstrations in Leipzig and begin a dialogue with the citizens." After German reunification, Masur took charge of the London Philharmonic and the Orchestre Nation-

ale de France in the early 1990s, Masur said he wasn't interested.

Born on July 18, 1927, in what was then the German town of Brieg — now Brzeg, Poland — Masur studied piano, composition and conducting at the Music College of Leipzig. He was appointed in 1955 as conductor of the Dresden Philharmonic in East Germany. Masur subsequently spent 26 years in charge of the Gewandhaus Orchestra in Leipzig, where he success-

Medical examiner: Scott Weiland died from toxic mix of drugs

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Former Stone Temple Pilots frontman Scott Weiland died of a toxic mix of drugs that included cocaine, according to a medical examiner's office in Minnesota where he was found dead on his tour bus in early December.

The Hennepin County Medical Examiner's Office said this weekend that the 48-year-old Weiland had cocaine, alcohol and the amphetamine MDA — a drug similar to ecstasy — in his system. The medical ex-

aminer also noted a history of cardiovascular disease, asthma and multi-substance dependence.

Weiland's body was found on his tour bus in the Minneapolis suburb of Bloomington on Dec. 3. The report said the time of death was 8:27 p.m. and that the death was accidental.

Weiland's three-decade career in music also included solo albums and a spot in the supergroup Velvet Revolver.

He rose to fame with Stone Temple Pilots, which be-

came one of the most commercially successful bands to come out of the early 1990s grunge rock movement. The band's 1992 debut album, "Core," sold 8 million units.

Stone Temple Pilots broke up in 2003, and Weiland went on to front Velvet Revolver, alongside rock luminaries Slash, Matt Sorum and Duff McKagan of Guns N' Roses and Dave Kushner of Wasted Youth.

The Stone Temple Pilots reunited in 2008 and split again in 2013.

Weiland's current band, Scott Weiland & the Wildabouts, had been scheduled to play a show in Medina, Minnesota, on Dec. 3, but it had been canceled a week earlier due to poor ticket sales.

Police said they found a small amount of cocaine in Weiland's bedroom and elsewhere on the tour bus, and briefly held a California man who was traveling with Weiland. But Bloomington Deputy Police Chief Mike Hartley said authorities won't pursue a drug

charge against the man because it would be too difficult to prove the drugs belonged to him.

Weiland had a long string of drug- and alcohol-related arrests and stints in rehab. In 1995, he was arrested after deputies found him carrying crack and heroin. He pleaded guilty to felony heroin possession in 1998. And his arrests for drug possession and stints in rehab led the Stone Temple Pilots to cancel tour dates and contributed to their 2003 breakup. □



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